Unemployed Persons in Jammu and Kashmir

2555. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of LABOUR **AND** EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of graduates, skilled and semi-skilled persons unemployed in Jammu and Kashmir as on 31st December, 2004;

(b) the steps being taken to provide employment to them;

(c) whether Government have offered any package to Jammu and Kashmir to remove unemployment there; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO) : (a) Number of graduate (including post graduate) jobseekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the live register of employment exchanges in Jammu and Kashmir as on 31st Dec. 2002 was around 31.0 thousand.

(b) As per the then Prime Minister's announcement in Jammu and Kashmir on 19-04-2003, a programme for creation of one lakh employment and self employment opportunities in Jammu and Kashmir over two years period (15 Aug 2003-14 Aug. 2005) had been undertaken. As per the available information, around 94000 employment opportunities have been provided in Jammu and Kashmir from 15-08-2003 to 28-02-2005.

(c) and (d) The Prime Minister during his visit to Jammu and Kashmir on 17th & 18th November 2004 announced a Reconstruction plan for Jammu and Kashmir involving an outlay of aproximately Rs. 24000 Crore. the plan, among other things, will also provide a thrust to employment and income generation in various sectors.

Availability of early warning system

t2556. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any system available in the world to provide early warning with regard to calamity like Tsunami;

(b) if so, whether India is not a member of the said mechanism;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether country is now considering on becoming member of the said mechanism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Tsunami Warning systems exist for Pacific rim nations. Tsunamis are generated very frequently in the Pacific Ocean and circum-Pacific countries are prone to these. India is not a member of Pacific Tsunami warning mechanism.

(c) Merely joining the Pacific warning system will not help India because for forecasting of tsunami waves in the Indian Ocean, we need to emplace sensors and related systems in the Indian Ocean and along the Indian coastline. Also, it may be noted that the percentage of false alarms from PTWC is about 70% which is not acceptable for Indian situation considering high population density and coastal operations.

(d) No, Madam. However India is setting up a Tsunami and Storm Surges Forecasting and Early Warning System suitable for the Indian Ocean.

Development of Vegetation in Coastal Areas

2557. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the impact of the Tsunami waves was less in the coastal areas where bushes 'Kandal Forest' were existing on the coast;

(b) if so, whether Government would evolve any comprehensive plan to protect their vegetation;

(c) the development of bushes and Kandal Forests along the coastal area; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir. It has been observed during the post-Tsunami studies in Andaman waters, by Fishery and Oceanographic Research Vessel-Sagar Sampada, a vessel belonging to Department of Ocean Development, that areas having thick mangrove vegetation are less affected by Tsunami.